

REMARKS

Claims 20-27 are pending. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 24-27 were indicated to be allowable.

Claims 20-27 were rejected on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 4, 9, and 15, of U.S. Patent No. 6,738,343. Applicants will file a terminal disclaimer separately.

Claims 20-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Skaperda, U.S. Patent No. 3,912,873 ("Skaperda"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single, prior reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Skaperda.

Embodiments of the present invention provide for redundant and backup signaling in a packet-switched network. A primary signaling is set up between first and second client terminals while a redundant one is likewise set up between the terminals. If the primary connection fails, the media channel is still maintained.

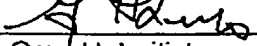
In contrast, Skaperda appears to relate to a circuit-switched, not packet-switched network. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that Skaperda does not relevant art. Furthermore, Skaperda does not provide for redundant signaling for client terminals, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Instead, the common controls 140 and 150 in Skaperda are provided as network devices/controls, and not client terminals. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited..

Date: March 18, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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